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### UM lecture features pioneer in American Indian Law

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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March 21, 2007

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### **UM LECTURE FEATURES PIONEER IN AMERICAN INDIAN LAW**

#### **MISSOULA—**

Professor Rennard Strickland is the featured speaker at the 2007 Judge James R. Browning Distinguished Lecture in Law at The University of Montana law school.

He will speak at noon, Thursday, April 5, in the Castles Center Arena on “The Book and the Bow: Native American Lawyers as Briefcase Warriors.” The lecture is free and open to the public.

Strickland is the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law at the University of Oregon. He was the founding director of the Center for the Study of American Indian Law and Policy at the University of Oklahoma and law school dean at that university from 1997 to 2002.

A legal historian of Osage and Cherokee heritage, Strickland is considered a pioneer in introducing American Indian law into university curricula. He has written and edited more than 40 books and is frequently cited by courts and scholars for his work as revision editor in chief of “Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law,” the leading text in the field.

Strickland is the first person to have served both as president of the Association of American Law Schools and as chair of the Law School Admissions Council. He also is

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the only person to have received both the Society of American Law Teachers Award and the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award.

"The law school community is honored that Professor Strickland has accepted our invitation as this year's Browning Distinguished Lecturer in Law," said Professor J. Martin Burke, faculty adviser to the Montana Law Review. "Professor Strickland is recognized as the dean of federal Indian law."

The lecture series is sponsored by the Montana Law Review to honor Browning, who was a member of the first editorial board of the law review and later served as its editor in chief.

As chief judge, Browning was credited with reorganizing and modernizing the administration of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the court, Browning served as clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1991 Browning received the Edward J. Devitt Award for Distinguished Service to Justice. In September 2001 the State Bar of Montana bestowed on him the bar's highest award, the William J. Jameson Award, and in 2004 the 9th Circuit building in San Francisco was renamed the James R. Browning United States Courthouse.

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